IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cleaning apparatus comprising:

a blade chip having a rubber plate member and a reinforcing plate member that are joined together;

a supporting plate supporting the blade chip; and

a holder pressing the blade chip against the supporting plate;

wherein the reinforcing plate member has first and second end planes, wherein when the blade chip is in an original position, the first end plane is located a predetermined distance from the distal end of the supporting plate, and wherein when the blade chip is in a changed position, the second end plane is located at the predetermined distance from the distal end of the supporting plate.

Claim 2 (Original): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the length between a distal end of the rubber plate member and a distal end of the reinforcing plate member is no more than the thickness of the rubber plate member.

Claim 3 (Original): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the rubber plate member is surface treated for reducing friction created thereon.

Claim 4 (Original): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a holding plate having a support axle for rotatably supporting the blade chip via the supporting plate.

Claim 5 (Original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

the cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 6 (Original): A process cartridge having an image carrier on which an electrostatic latent image is formed, a charging unit for charging the image carrier to form the electrostatic latent image thereon, a developing unit for developing the electrostatic latent image with a developer, the process cartridge comprising:

the cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 7 (Original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

at least one process cartridge as claimed in claim 6.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A cleaning apparatus comprising:

a blade chip having a rubber plate member and a reinforcing plate member that are joined together;

a vibration plate supporting the blade chip;

a piezoelectric element disposed on the vibration plate for propagating vibration to the blade chip via the vibration plate; and

a holder pressing the blade chip against the vibration plate;

wherein the reinforcing plate member has first and second end planes, wherein when the blade chip is in an original position, the first end plane is located a predetermined distance from the distal end of the vibration plate, and wherein when the blade chip is in a changed position, the second end plane is located at the predetermined distance from the distal end of the vibration plate.

Claim 9 (Original): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least a portion of the rubber plate member is surface treated for reducing friction created thereon.

Claim 10 (Original): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a holding plate having a support axle for rotatably supporting the blade chip via the vibration plate.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the vibration plate ~~is set with~~ has a plate thickness which is less than that of the rubber plate member and that of the reinforcing plate member.

Claim 12 (Original): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein one or more notches are formed in a portion of the vibration plate other than a portion of the vibration plate on which the piezoelectric element is disposed.

Claim 13 (Original): The cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the rubber plate member and the reinforcing plate member are joined together via an intermediary member disposed therebetween.

Claim 14 (Original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

the cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 15 (Original): A process cartridge having an image carrier on which an electrostatic latent image is formed, a charging unit for charging the image carrier to form the

electrostatic latent image thereon, a developing unit for developing the electrostatic latent image with a developer, the process cartridge comprising:

the cleaning apparatus as claimed in claim 8.

Claim 16 (Original): An image forming apparatus comprising:

at least one process cartridge as claimed in claim 15.

Claim 17 (New): A cleaning apparatus comprising:

a blade chip having a rubber plate member and a reinforcing plate member that are joined together;

a supporting plate supporting the blade chip; and

a holder pressing the blade chip against the supporting plate;

wherein the length between a distal end of the rubber plate member and a distal end of the reinforcing plate member is no more than the thickness of the rubber plate member.

Claim 18 (New): A cleaning apparatus comprising:

a blade chip having a rubber plate member and a reinforcing plate member that are joined together;

a vibration plate supporting the blade chip;

a piezoelectric element disposed on the vibration plate for propagating vibration to the blade chip via the vibration plate; and

a holder pressing the blade chip against the vibration plate;

wherein one or more notches are formed in a portion of the vibration plate other than a portion of the vibration plate on which the piezoelectric element is disposed.

Claim 19 (New): A cleaning apparatus comprising:

a blade chip having a rubber plate member and a reinforcing plate member that are joined together;

a vibration plate supporting the blade chip;

a piezoelectric element disposed on the vibration plate for propagating vibration to the blade chip via the vibration plate; and

a holder pressing the blade chip against the vibration plate;

wherein the rubber plate member and the reinforcing plate member are joined together via an intermediary member disposed therebetween.